



Greyhound Rescue Wales E-Newsletter

June 2009

Charity No. 1059733

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Links

Greyhound Rescue Wales

[www.
greyhoundrescuewales
.co.uk](http://www.greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk)

Welcome to the June newsletter

Summer's here! Time to pack your pack and enjoy one of our events. We hope you like the newsletter - please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for content.

Last Hope Sponsored Walk - 21st June

Come along to Brynbach Park on 21st June for our annual sponsored walk in memory of Last Hope. In last month's newsletter, we said we'd run a detailed feature on the event – the background to the walk and how we use the money raised.

In May 2004, a walker on Fochriw Mountain, Rhymney found a greyhound lying, barely alive and with terrible injuries, in a pile of rubbish. Last Hope was a racing greyhound who had come to the end of his racing career due to injury – his reward was for his owner to pay a man, Andrew Gough, £10 to kill him and dispose of his body. As most greyhounds have ear tattoos, both ears were cut off and a botched attempt was made to kill the dog with a bolt pistol. After being found, the dog's injuries were so severe that he was put to sleep.

The horrific suffering and casual dumping of the dog made this case notorious – and helped greyhound campaigners cast a light on the murky practices of the racing industry when dogs have reached the end of their working life.

After this case received a great deal of publicity, the racing industry in Wales (including many conscientious and responsible owners/trainers) has worked with animal welfare organisations to help improve welfare standards – work that is still ongoing with the Welsh Assembly Government. One of the key issues to be improved will be traceability – ensuring

greyhounds do not simply "disappear" off the track and both tattoos and microchipping to be used as identification.

The Last Hope sponsored walk is now held annually in Brynbach Park, firstly as a memorial to an innocent victim of the dark side of a racing industry that treats dogs as commodities not as creatures. Secondly, it raises funds for the Last Hope Fund. This fund is totally separate from GRW's other revenues and is specifically set aside to help dogs that are either seriously injured or in imminent danger – the most serious welfare cases we deal with. Almost inevitably, these cases come with the highest vets bills and sometimes it can take a long time to help a dog back on to the path to health and a permanent home.

Each year, at our AGM, Sarah Marsh, a member of our Executive will be describing and reporting on the dogs that have been helped by the Last Hope fund over the previous year.

You can download posters for the event and sponsorship forms from our website – just go to the Events Page.

Brynbach Park is a most attractive venue – there's ample parking, and level paths round the lake. A café and toilets are provided on site, and GRW will also be having its merchandise on sale. You can turn up and walk between 11 and 3.

The park is easy to access off the A465 – if you have sat-nav, the post code is NP22 3AY.

Induction for Dog Walkers - 21st June in Brynbach Park

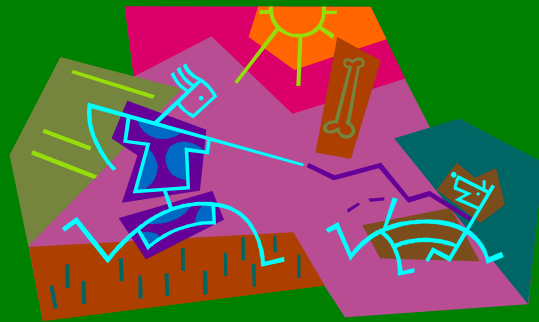
As part of the activities in the park on 21st June, we are offering an opportunity to sign up for dog walking duties for the dogs in our kennels. Although the dogs are exercised in kennels, going for walks in the outside world is an important part of their development and assessment. Dog walkers play a vital role in helping us to describe the dogs to future homes – keen observation on the walks can help us decide if a dog is a "bouncer" or a "plodder", an extrovert who loves to party or a quiet soul who prefers the peaceful life. For many of our dogs, these walks are also helping prepare them for life outside a kennel – where they can get used to things as odd as Yorkshire terriers, buggies, joggers, children bearing ice-

cream and all the other mind-boggling things a greyhound will meet on a day out in the park.

Walking one of our dogs is great fun, and a good way to get some exercise. It's also a big responsibility as you then become an ambassador for the organisation. The induction session will take you through all the key points involved, including insurance, safety, do's and don'ts and tips for observing the behaviour of the dog.

Please note – we do not allow anyone to walk our dogs until they have been through an induction session.

The induction session will take place with Sandra Morris, Chair of Kennelling Committee, at Brynbach Park on 21st June at 11 a.m. and will last for approximately half an hour.



Fostering Event - Date confirmed - Saturday 18th July

We are now very pleased to confirm the date for our first ever Fostering event - Saturday 18th July, from 11- 2 in Cardiff. This is a free, no-obligation event which will allow you to find out more about what's involved with fostering and ask any questions you like in a friendly, low key environment. Places are limited but we will run further events if there is strong demand. If you would like to attend, please let us know by Sunday 28th June. To book a place, simply email info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk letting us know your contact details and how many places you'd like, along with any special dietary requirements (lunch is provided). We'll be covering issues such as:-

- Insurance
- Expenses
- Veterinary Care
- Exercise
- Meeting new Owners
- Relations with existing family members (canine and human!)



Countdown to the Royal Welsh Show 20- 23rd July

The Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells is the biggest event we attend each year. Regardless of weather, thousands of people descend on mid Wales to enjoy the show and we are part of it. Our exhibition caravan, volunteers, dogs and stall will all be on display – raising money and awareness. It's not for the faint-hearted but it is a fabulous opportunity to tell the world about how greyhounds make wonderful companions. It's also a great way to raise funds by selling merchandise – so if you didn't qualify for the Apprentice this is your chance! Our very own (Sir) Alain will be organising volunteers so if you'd like to be part of the fun, email him on info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk to sign up.

**Coming next month - September's show details
- lots to look forward to....**

Email addresses and contacts

National helpline and emergency number 0300 0123 999

**Membership – queries, joining, renewal
join@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk**

*PR - Website updates – Alain Thomas
info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk*

*Email newsletter views, queries and to add/remove names
Greyhoundwales@btinternet.com*

*Secretary – Kathryn Woodhouse
greyhoundwales@btinternet.com*